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of Chitral-payan, is the chief place of commerce in the country. It is situated on the two caravan-routes between India, Badakhshan, and Yarkand, which, if cared for, can be made to connect more closely the north-western frontier of India with Western Turkistan through Badakhshan, and Eastern Turkistan through the Pamir Steppes, by the shortest, the directest, and perhaps the easiest of all the lines of communication now in use. The only dangerous portion of the route is the country of Yaghistan (Bajour and Swat, including Dir), between Peshawar and Chitral.

Caravans of petty merchants now pass through Kashkaro annually between Peshawar, Yaghistan and Afghanistan, on the south-east and south-west, and Badakhshan, Kunduz, Balkh, Turkistan, and Kolab, a principality in Bukhara, on the north-west, and Eastern Turkistan on the north-east.

Mistuch and Yasin, in Chitral-bala, are also resorted to by traders for the purchase of slaves. The former lies on the caravan-route leading to Yarkand, 7 marches up the Chitral River from Kashkaro; the latter, lying between Mistuch and Gilgit, is about 15 marches from Kashkaro, and 6 or 7 from Mistuch.

Trade in Chitral is chiefly carried on by means of barter ("marchah"). The Peshawaris, the Afghanistanis, and the Yaghistanis, both Hindu and Mussulman, exchange Bahadarkhel salt,* English and Indian piece-goods, grocery, haberdashery, Bajour iron, for Hartal (orpiment), Chitral woollens (blankets and choghas) and falcons. The merchants from the north-west bring horses, Bukhara and Khokand silks, cloaks of Russian broad-cloth, and Badakhshan salt,† cotton cloth, and degchoans (iron cans, cast after the Russian style), &c., for the purchase of slaves and Chitral woollens (cloaks, blankets, and stockings). The trade between Yarkand and India, or Afghanistan, through Chitral, is confined to certain adventurous Afghans only; natives of Yarkand seldom or never take this route.

Chitral, as already stated, is held by two different branches of an ancient family, descended from a common ancestor, "Kathor." The branch in possession of Chitral-bala is called the "Khushwaktia," from Khushwakt, an ancestor of the present incumbents; that holding Chitral-payan goes by the name of the "Shahkathoria," after Shah Kathor, grandfather of the present ruler, Aman-ul-mulk. The two branches not only rule over their respective countries independently of each other, but are generally at variance with one another.

3. *Peruvian Exploration of the River Ucayali.*

[Communicated by I. GERSTENBERG, Esq., F.R.G.S.]

D. JUAN R. TUCKER, President of the Hydrographic Commission sent in the time of Colonel Prado's government to the Amazon with the object of exploring each of the tributary rivers of that region, has sent a communication to the Government, dated November 16, in which he gives an account of the result of his labours. The last exploring expedition has had for its object to seek a passage to Chanchamayo, ascending all the river Ucayali through regions entirely unknown. The small steamer *Napo* of little force, the only one of which the commission could dispose, started from the port of Iquitos the 4th of last September, and navigating all the Ucayali from its confluence with the Marañon up to its formation by the Tambo and the Urubamba, 772 miles, first ascended the Tambo, and later on the Urubamba; but had to return from thence, its machinery not being sufficiently powerful to overcome

* In the Kohat district of the Punjab.

† From the mines of Kalaogan in Mashhad and in Farakhar, both districts of Badakhshan.

the powerful current ; 5 miles being the greatest distance which it was able to ascend the Tambo (60 miles from the fort of Chanchamayo) and 35 miles the Urubamba. The Ucayali has a course of 772 miles in this order :—

	Miles.
From its mouth to the town of Sarayacu	269
From Sarayacu to the mouth of River Pachitea, a tributary of the Ucayali	306
From the mouth of the Pachitea to that of the Tambo	197
	<hr/> 772

The steamer *Napo* has ascended by the Urubamba 35 miles higher than the mouth of the Tambo; and if this last point be compared with that which the city of Cuzco occupies, it will be found that the distance in a straight line is but 65 leagues.

This expedition confirms the tidings which other explorers had given us of the great Ucayali, with respect to the facility with which it can be navigated in any season by larger vessels, as well as—what is now beyond doubt—that the Ucayali is the true source of the Amazon, and not the Marañon as was formerly supposed.

It is almost impossible to determine the number of Indians that inhabit these regions, but it is supposed that it must be very large from the great traffic that is observed in navigating the river.

The principal articles of commerce of the lower Ucayali are, salt fish, land and river turtle, oil of copaiba, and gums: the temperature is very mild and agreeable.

The expedition has been unable to ascend the Tambo, on account of the incapability of the steamer, that is to say [at least Mr. Tucker asserts so] with another better adapted, the approach to Chanchamayo will be effected, and thus the great problem will be resolved, of the possible navigation of our rivers to the foot of our Eastern cities.

4. *Journey through the Gold Country of South Africa.* By J. FENWICK WILKINSON, Esq.

ON the 7th May, 1866, I left Merico, Trans Vaal Republic, with the intention of exploring and hunting the Mashoona country, north-east of Moselikatse. We reached the chief Sekomo's in one month; and found plenty of water and grass. We went by the way of the Notwani, a tributary of the Limpopo. There are three roads leading to Sekomo's (now Machin's) from Merico: one by the Limpopo, one by the Notwani, and one by the chief Sechele. By the latter there are about two days and a half of deep sand to track through, with a scarcity of water; this was the road used by Mr. Baldwin. By the Limpopo, you have nearly one day of sand, after leaving the river, and in the winter—the dry season—you may not find a drop of water from the time you leave the river till you get to Machin's, three and a half days' track. By the Notwani you have only about two hours of sand, generally speaking plenty of water, and a better road. There is very little difference in the distance. The bush-country begins at Merico. There is abundance of firewood, &c. The camel-thorn abounds, and, the further north you go, the more timber you find.

The country, after reaching the Notwani and Limpopo, is nearly flat in places; in other parts gentle undulations. Giraffes, buffaloes, elands, koodoo, pallah, lions, &c., abound. We remained about five days at Sekomo's, during which time he was deposed, and Machin raised to the throne. The principal part of the ceremony at the coronation consisted, I believe, in their